



**Minutes of the 71st AGM of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral
Wednesday 12th July 2023
OBE Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral**

The Chairman, The Reverend Canon Neil Evans, Canon Steward welcomed everyone to the 71st Friends Annual General Meeting and opened the meeting at 1.30pm with prayers including the Friends Prayer.

Including the Prayer of the Friends of St Paul's:

O God to whose great honour this Cathedral Church was built; send your blessing on all who serve and worship in St Paul's and all who enter its doors. Let it always be a place where your love is made known, your truth proclaimed, and your name glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

It was noted the agenda for 2023 meeting, the financial report for year ending 31st December 2022 and the Minutes of the previous AGM held in July 2022 were sent in advance via email and hardcopy ahead of the AGM. Some Friends members have requested hard copies to be available at the meeting. This was noted and will be actioned for 2024.

The Canon Steward introduced The Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral and Emily MacKenzie, Chief Operating Officer to the Friends.

Apologies for absence received in advance of the meeting

Peta Walmisley

Mike Tadman

Elizabeth Foy

Ruth Page

Margaret and John Carter

Gerard Black

Peter and Stephanie Chapman

Keith Billingham

Sheila Nicolls

Alexandra Scott

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 13th July 2022

There were no matters of accuracy or matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Cathedral Update

The Canon Steward gave a Cathedral and Fundraising update.

- Joanne Day, Chief Financial Officer will be retiring at the end of 2023 and Martin Fletcher, Clerk of the Works will be retiring in September 2023 after 27 years at the Cathedral.
- Rebecca Thompson, Director of Property will start at the Cathedral in August.
- The Cathedral has seen an increase in visitor numbers since the pandemic. The international tourist market is slowly returning. The Cathedral finances have increased, and this has provided a small surplus in 2022. So far 2023 is looking promising.
- The Schools and Family Learning department are very busy with a phenomenal amount of school visits since the pandemic.
- The Cathedral's fundraising team has raised over £1.1m in cash and pledges so far this year, amidst a very challenging economic climate. This included significant donations to the Whispering Gallery, Music Outreach and the Collections department.
- The development team have worked incredible hard whilst they are without a Development Director. The former Development Director Nicky Wynne left at the end of 2022 to work at a private school in the Cotswolds.
- The Cathedral is currently in the process of recruiting a new Development Director and we are hopeful that someone will join the Development team by the end of the year.



- 2023 will see the completion of two major fundraising projects – the conservation of the Library and the Whispering Gallery. The Friends of St Paul's have been a major supporter of the Whispering Gallery project, donating a total of £246,000 towards this important project. The Canon Steward thanked the Friends for their very generous donation and continued support.
- Friends were amongst the first to visit the newly restored Library earlier this year. The Friends will be offered a visit to the Whispering Gallery before it is open to the public later this year.
- The Cathedral's fundraising will focus significantly around two major projects over the next few years.
 - Girls Voices & the introduction of girls into the Cathedral Choir
 - The conservation of the Dome, Cupola and Ball & Cross
- Girls Voices will embed equal opportunities into music at St Paul's and create a new gold-standard of excellence in Cathedral music both nationally and internationally. From September 2025 we will be welcoming up to 30 girl choristers, offering them all full bursaries.
- The iconic Dome and Cupola of St Paul's has dominated the London skyline since the Cathedral's completion, but recent surveys have shown that the structure has significantly deteriorated and is in urgent need of restoration. The next few years will see us investigate the extent of the deterioration, establish the works needed, and then use the restoration itself as a springboard to grow public awareness of heritage conservation and offer heritage craft apprenticeships.
- These are both multi-million multi-year projects that we hope the Friends will be excited to join us on. As we begin to raise funds for both of these projects, we are looking for anyone who might be able to introduce us to any trusts, foundations, corporates or even potential major donors who could be interested in supporting either of these.
- The Canon Steward thanked the Friends for their continued support and gave thanks to the Cathedral staff and Volunteers for all they do at the Cathedral.

Finance Update from Rachel Taylor, Finance Manager

Rachel Taylor gave an update on the Friends Finances.

- The accounts for year ending 31st December 2022 had been approved by the Friends Council at a meeting on 27th March 2023.
- The audit of the accounts for year ending 31st December 2022 was completed by West Wake Price with no matters arising.
- Subscription income was £8k higher in 2022 than 2021, however this was offset by a fall in donations of approximately the same amount.
- Total Income for the year was approximately £68,000. That was £30,000 lower than in 2021, mainly due to a reduction in legacy income. 2021 included two larger legacies – one for £20,000 and one for just over £10,000, whereas the four legacies in 2022 totalled £3,582.

The following grants were given in 2022;

- o £100k Whispering Gallery safety project
 - o £40k Staff costs
 - o £20k Schools and Families
 - o £11k Choristership
- The Friends Council updated the reserve policy in January 2023, so that funds raised by the Friends will be granted to the Cathedral on a more regular basis, subject to maintain minimum free reserves of £40,000. Under this new policy, at the same meeting a further grant of £96,000 for the Whispering Gallery project was agreed, which brings the total amount that the Friends have contributed to this project to £246,000 (almost quarter of a million).
 - For the first six months of 2023, Total income is £58,000 compared to £33,000 for the first 6 months of 2022. The increase is primarily due to legacy income of £29,000. Subscription income is approximately £22,000 which is in line with 2022 and donations are slightly down.
 - The auditors West Wake Price have recently merged with a larger firm Brebners. It was agreed that Brebners be appointed as auditors, continuing on similar terms as previously agreed with West Wake Price.

AOB

Questions asked from the floor:

- **Visitors are recording their experience during their visit. They do not have permission from other visitors. what is being done to prevent/stop this from happening?**

The Canon Steward explained this issue was being reviewed.

- **Will there be a permanent café in the Crypt rather than just the coffee cart?**

The Canon Steward explained, this is under review, and we are looking at it being a Social Enterprise project.

- **The Orchestral Mass on Sunday 9th July was fantastic, can we have more services like this?**

The Canon Steward explained the Cathedral relies heavily on sponsorship for an Orchestral Mass. They will only happen when we have secured sponsorship.

- **When there are changes to Chapter members, could this be communicated to the Friends in the newsletter?**

This was noted and the Membership Manager agreed to include this information in the newsletter.

- **Could a table or flowchart of staff and clergy be included in the communications to the Friends?**

This was noted and the Membership Manager agreed to include this information in the newsletter.

- **How do we plan to increase diversity among the Friends?**

The Canon Steward responded and explained the Friends Council, Membership Manager and Development Operations Manager are working on ways to increase diversity and are always happy for fellow Friends to come forward with ideas they might have. The Canon Steward encouraged Friends to introduce their own network of Friends and Family to aid in recruitment and increase diversity.



- **When will the Light of the World return to the Cathedral and where will it be positioned?**

The Canon Steward explained, The Light of the World is currently undergoing restoration. The collections department are trialling different locations with the facsimile within the Cathedral.

The Canon Steward closed the AGM at 2.30pm
There were 85 Friends in attendance.

After the AGM, Friends enjoyed refreshments in the Wren Suite and a lecture in the OBE Chapel, Rebuilding the City after the Great Fire from Jill Finch, fellow Friend, and Cathedral Guide followed by Evensong and a Chorister Recital attended by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.